



# Setting up a community resilience group



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# Setting up a community resilience group

**Promoting and supporting community, business and individual resilience is a priority activity for Aberdeen City Council in 2022 and beyond.**

The past few years with the Covid pandemic and then more recently with the significant and numerous storms it has been clear that local authorities and the blue light services require that local knowledge and additional organised support from our communities.

**The key priorities are; raising awareness, identifying and developing community champions and supporting the development of resilience plans across Aberdeen.**

*We know people and community groups across Aberdeen did a lot to help out their neighbours and communities in the recent storms and bad weather, and during covid in the last couple of years – from a simple check on elderly neighbours, to fetching shopping, or helping to grit pavements. However you have helped – thank you, it is really appreciated by ourselves and partners such as the police, Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership, and SSE.*

*Thank you ❤️*

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## Community Resilience

What is it.....

**Communities and individuals harnessing resources and expertise to help themselves prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, in a way that compliments the work of the emergency services.**

*'Community Resilience as described by Scottish Government.*

**Having a Community Resilience Volunteer group and Community Emergency Plan does not mean that your group would replace the emergency responders.**

The group would support their community by making sensible preparations and helping each other, like clearing snow from paths, filling sandbags and helping neighbours who may need a hand with shopping or transport. In some circumstances it may include activities like opening a community hall or looking for a missing person.

**The community groups are supported by emergency responder organisations who provide advice around developing the plan, offer training and liaise closely with the group during an emergency.**

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## Why do communities need to be resilient?

During an emergency responders will prioritise helping the most vulnerable; in the meantime there is a lot communities can do to help themselves.

- Scotland has over 300 Community Resilience Volunteer Groups
- **Aberdeen City has only 2 Community Resilience Volunteer Groups; Cults and Culter.**

Typical emergencies that benefit from a Community Resilience Volunteer Group include; flooding, fire, snow and ice conditions, power cuts and missing persons.

## Additional community benefits

- Keeping people informed
- Learning new skills
- Fully inclusive –there is a role for all
- Getting to know people in your community
- A sense of self worth
- The community feel safe and prepared for emergencies
- People become more community spirited

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## Why is Community Resilience Important?

**'Community resilience is important to enable communities to function well, socially, economically and environmentally when faced with uncertainty, change and adversity caused by emergencies.'**

**Community Resilience Volunteer Groups** raise awareness and build capacity to adapt to current and future risks:

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**Call to Action –we need our communities**; we need to harness the positive response by our communities during the pandemic.

**Local Aberdeen City Areas most vulnerable from flooding and severe weather incidents based on historic data:**

- Deeside
- Bridge of Don and Denmore
- The Green and Merchant Quarter
- Riverside Drive and Holburn Street
- Footdee

July 2022 will see the launch of an ACC campaign with the following aims regards community, business and individual resilience.

## **Aims**

- 1.Raising Awareness
- 2.Identifying and developing community champions
- 3.Supporting the development of Community Resilience Plans

We will be using printed materials, e flyers, social media and web pages within ACC site to assist in fulfilling our aims.

# Community Resilience



Want to help your community by joining a resilience group which would help out or organise volunteers during storms or other emergencies?

If you want to know more, please email [CRVG@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:CRVG@aberdeencity.gov.uk) and we will let you know more when groups are being set up in your area.

Thank you ♥



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## **What we are asking for:**

- We need your help and support to Champion the call for more City Community Resilience Volunteer Groups
- We would ask for introduction to your communities and key local stakeholders; individuals, business leaders, existing groups
- Facilitate initial meeting of potential volunteers and this group

## **What we will do for the communities, for existing groups that would expand to include resilience:**

- Offer advice, guidance and training
- Give a small grant and or items for a resilience emergency box for your group
- Assist in compilation of the community plan
- Guidance regarding grants and funding
- Insurance for community groups

**The success of a group depends on the quality of relationships with groups and services that help them do their job effectively.**

**We can offer this commitment.**



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## Next Steps

- Introductions to key individuals, existing groups or businesses to discuss possibility of setting up a group
- Initial Meeting
- Sign up volunteer groups or existing groups to agree to add resilience plan to their groups activities
- Fill Key CRVG roles –Chairperson, Coordinator, Administrator
- Creation of online / social media presence
- Creation of Community Resilience plan – generic plan will be supplied and assistance given
- Creation of Community response team
- Training and Exercising of plan
- Arrange Insurance provided by LA
- Access to existing group for advice and guidance

If you want to have an even more resilient community in an emergency – **how about setting up a local resilience group?** They keep people informed, have a role for all, bring residents in a community together, help communities feel safe and prepared for emergencies, and harness the community spirit. **To find out the next steps email us at [CRVG@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:CRVG@aberdeencity.gov.uk) Thank you**❤

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Any Questions?

**Resources:**

[www.readyscotland.org](http://www.readyscotland.org)

[www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk](http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk)

[www.adaptionscotland.org.uk](http://www.adaptionscotland.org.uk)

[www.culter.org.uk](http://www.culter.org.uk)

**Thank you for your time.**



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